

March 31, 2014

Comparison of Glover 1972, *A Guide to Gurung Tone*, with data elicited from Narayan Gurung on March 25, 2014.

Nasal Vowels

Narayan's nasal vowels appear to correspond closely with the nasal vowels recorded by Glover. In general, if Glover records a nasal vowel in a particular word, Narayan will also produce a nasal vowel in his version of the word. Some minimal pairs follow:

Gloss	Glover	Narayan
gallbladder	N/A	k ^h ã/k ^h ã
cover	ká:	k ^h a/ka
small hole	k ^h ú (in k ^h ú t ^h õba, 'bore hole')	k ^h ú
"soup"	k ^h ú	k ^h ú
birdnest	tsõ	tsõ
top of tree	tsɔ	sĩndu/ĩndu tsɔ (sĩndũ, perhaps?)
be happy	tɔ	sẽ tɔ(ba)
to open	t ^h õ	t ^h õ(ba)

We recorded two exceptions, in both of which cases Narayan used a nasal vowel where Glover recorded an oral vowel:

pillar	tɔ	tõ
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storage room	tsjogō	tsõgũ
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Nasal Harmoy

In both Glover's recordings and our recordings with Narayan, it appears that vowel nasalization spreads across a word from left to right.

Although not always for Glover's recordings:

tripod	tsõgú	tsõgũ
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Prenasalized stops (or poststopped nasals)

Glover records no prenasalized stops, though in several cases Narayan produced a prenasalized stop where Glover recorded a simple nasal stop.

fire	mi	^m b̥i
tail	mi	^m b̥i/ ^m bi
person/man	m̥i	^m b̥i. m̥i, perhaps b̥i

cow	m̥é	^m be/ ^m b̥e
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Although, tellingly, not in the case of 'name,' which Glover records as [mĩ] and Narayan produced as [m̥ĩ]. Indeed, in the Gurung database amassed thusfar, in no case have [^mb] and [ⁿd] been observed to be followed by a nasal vowel. [ⁿg] is transcribed as being followed by a nasal in two words, though those cases may simply represent a mishearing of [ŋ]. It can thus be deduced that in Gurung, prenasalized stops only occur before oral vowels.

Additionally, prenasalized stops may also occur word-medially, but in those cases they may be difficult, if not impossible, to distinguish them from [nasal + stop] clusters. Whether these sounds are allophones, phonemes, or a mix has yet to be determined.

Breathy Voice

Glover records contrastive breathy vs. modal voicing, and Narayan is quick to distinguish those sounds as well, which he will sometimes describe as "with the *ha* sound." According to Glover, breathy voice can occur with or without accent pitch, which alongside clear/accented and clear/unaccented yields a four-way phonation distinction with the following tonal realizations:

- clear + unaccented = mid tone
- clear + accented = high falling tone
- breathy + unaccented = low
- breathy + accented = high falling tone

Narayan definitely uses breathy voice in combination with a low tone, thus corresponding to Glover's "low rising tone" as in the following examples:

person/man	mᵢ	ᵐbᵢ. mᵢ, perhaps bᵢ
son	tsᵛ	tsᵛ
grind(grain)	prᵛba	prᵛba

Indeed, of Glover's 13 low-breathy words in the elicitation, to which Narayan gave precise answers, all but three were also breathy (and likely low-tone as well), with the following exceptions:

spinning wheel	ra:ḑá	ra(ra)
tripod	tsõgú	tsõgú
push	kaḑbá	kʰéba

Glover also records words with accent and breathy, which I would expect to hear as a high-falling breathy tone. Only four such words featured in this elicitation. Of those:

Two did not appear to have a marked tone or breathiness at all:

remember	tsᵢbá	tᶱiba/tᶱíba
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facial/body hair	mwí	^m bwi
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One I could not easily determine:

cow	mẹ	^m be/ ^m bẹ
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And one appeared to be of an ordinary low-breathy tone:

drive out	lạ:	lạ(ba) (.14 sec)
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Thus, while Narayan's forms evince a similar distinction in most respects, he does not appear to have an accented/breathy category like Glover's consultant does. Further examples are needed to determine whether or not this is the case.

Accent

Narayan's speech does appear consistent with an accented/unaccented or high/low pitch distinction, such as that proposed by Glover. But are Narayan's accented tones found in the same places as Glover's accented tones?

16 words clearly appear with accented tone in this elicitation, excepting the -[ba]/-[bá] suffix and a few instances in which I was uncertain about the tone (including 'money' and 'remember'). Of these, in six cases the tones are identical, in Glover's and Narayan's versions, while in ten cases they differ.

fireplace	kodá:	koda
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head scarf	kramú	kramu
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urine	kũ	kú
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drive out	lạ:	lạ(ba) (.14 sec)
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to light	mrobá:	^m bróba
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envy	mróba	^m broba (low tone)
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cow	mẹ	^m be/ ^m bẹ
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facial/body hair	mwí	^m bwi
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cover	ká:	k ^h a/ka
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The words with similar accented tone include the following:

small hole	k ^h ú (in k ^h ú t ^h õba, 'bore hole')	k ^h ú
"soup"	k ^h ú	k ^h ú

carve	ts ^h á:	ts ^h á: (.09, .12 sec)
that	tsá	tsa/tsá

descend	tá	tá
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borrow	k ^h í	k ^h íba
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Other Phonological Observations

V --> \tilde{V} / _[nasal stop]

Glover (*Dictionary*, vii) claims that vowels become nasalized before nasal stops (Glover, *Dictionary*, vii). However, his transcriptions include a counter-example:

head scarf	kramú/kramú	kramu
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The only other word that appeared in this elicitation with a VN cluster was 'tree,' [sĩndu]~[ĩndu], produced by Narayan, which does exhibit nasalization. But both Glover's *Dictionary* and previous elicitations with Narayan offer many other counterexamples.

/s, ts, ts^h, dz/ --> [ʃ, tʃ, tʃ^h, dʒ] / __ [i, e, j] ...most of the time. (cf. Glover, *Dictionary*, vii):

Sometimes this results in Narayan producing the palatalized variant; in other cases, he may use either and indeed give both in the process of repeating a word, as in the case of [sĩndu] ~ [ĩndu] 'tree.'

/kl-/ --> [ɬ-]

[ɬ], which appears exclusively as an onset, appears to be underlyingly [kl], according to Glover's *Dictionary* (vii). In only one of several recorded instances of [la] 'bull, ox' Narayan instead produced [kla].

This only appears in two other words elicited from Narayan: [ɬani], 'father's eldest sister,' and [ɬɔba], 'to play.'

Post- 4/1/2014

Possession

Possession in Gurung can be marked with its own suffix; however, placing the possessor before the possessed is sometimes sufficient:

-ŋa	tsu	korijan-mej	pasala-ra	k ^h e	la-di
I	here	Korean-PL	store-LOC	work	do-PST

5/8/2014

Things to investigate:

-ba

Glover *Dictionary* says:

- [-ba:] on low clear verbs with voiced stops - [boba:]
- [-bá:] on other low clear verbs - [pĩbá:]
- [bá] on rising breathy verbs - [jõbá]
- [ba] on high clear and low breathy verbs - [nába], [kɔba]

Nepali #w > Gurung #b ? Or just #wai/#bai, except [baina:] 'downpayment, deposit'

- also #ba, also bhawiṣya/bəbíṣja 'future'
- wiwa:ha > bija: 'marriage, wedding'???
- tsunaau > tsunaab 'election'

/kl/ --> [ɬ] / #__. However, medially, does it voice? Nep. [tsukli] > [tsuli], not [tsuɬi]

- plural marker is $[-ma]$; $[-maj] = [-ma] + [-aj]$; $[-mane] = [-ma] + [-ne]$

- gerunds: $[-u]$ and $[-ba]$ related?

- $[-una] \sim [-jere]$

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